

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 11, lines 6-27 with the following paragraph:

The suspension may be applied to at least one surface of an article in a manner known to the skilled worker. The suspension of the invention is preferably applied by dipping the article into the suspension of the invention, and then permitting the material to run off, or by spray-application of the suspension of the invention to the article. Surprisingly, spray-application of the suspension can in particular generate especially durable coatings which have relatively low susceptibility to scratching and to abrasion, in particular on polymer surfaces. A possible reason for this is that a material such as alcohol in water facilitates charge equilibration on polymer surfaces, and thus reduces the level of local electrical fields. As a result of this reduction, the particles find it easier to anchor into the surface roughness which is always present. In the spraying procedure, the particles become even more securely embedded into the surface roughness present on the polymer matrix, due to their kinetic energy. The spray-application of the suspension of the invention preferably uses a spray apparatus which has a nozzle of diameter from 0.05 to 2 mm, preferably of diameter from 0.1 to 0.9 mm. It can be advantageous for the Manning coefficient in the tubes of the spray apparatus to assume values below 100. According to Garbrecht (see (<http://www.tu-harburg.de/www/vorlesung-/Script-HydromechWS01-5-6.pdf> on the worldwide web)), the Manning coefficient can be derived as follows from the wall roughness k:

$$\text{Manning coefficient} = 26/k^{1/6}.$$